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Addendum

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Coordination questions: United Nations System-wide Special Initiative for the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (item 4 (b))

1. At its 23rd meeting, on 22 June 2000, the Committee considered the progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative for the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (E/AC.51/2000/6 and Corr.1).

Discussion

2. The pivotal role the Committee had played in setting in motion various mechanisms and frameworks to place Africa high on the agenda of the United Nations was recalled. The Committee had included programmes on Africa in the medium-term plans for the periods 1992-1997 and 1998-2001 and had linked the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa to the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s as an implementing arm. It was observed that the development of Africa must remain the central focus of the work of the United Nations.

3. It was noted that the progress report was comprehensive but was more descriptive than analytical.

4. The significant progress achieved in the implementation of the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative for the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s was noted with satisfaction. It was observed that the areas in which progress had been recorded were governance,

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information technology for development, education, health, and population and gender. In other areas, such as water, poverty eradication, trade access and opportunities, economic diversification, regional cooperation and integration, environment and south-south cooperation, the organizations concerned were urged to strengthen collaboration in their respective clusters.

5. Concern was expressed that not enough progress was being achieved in eradicating poverty. Lack of resources was one of the primary factors impeding progress. The international community, in particular the donor countries, was urged to increase financial resource flows to Africa, in terms of official development assistance and foreign direct investment, according to agreed commitments.

6. While the progress made in the health cluster was noted, especially the drive against the HIV/AIDS pandemic, concern was expressed about the prioritization and level of support for the health sector in dealing with other killer diseases such as malaria and pneumonia.

7. The need to strengthen regional cooperation and integration was emphasized. In that regard, support was needed for the capacity-building required to establish the African economic community, as well as for strengthening the regional and subregional economic groupings and the joint secretariat of the Organization of African Unity, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank.

8. The importance of enhanced coordination among the organizations of the United Nations system working in Africa and the need for harmonizing the non-United Nations initiatives through the creation of linkages and the sharing of information was underscored. The organizations of the United Nations system working in Africa should adopt a holistic approach.

Conclusions and recommendations

9. The Committee took note of the progress report of the Secretary-General. In noting the results achieved, it recalled the pivotal role it had played in setting in motion various mechanisms and frameworks relating to Africa.

10. The Committee stressed the importance of resource mobilization for the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative for the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and, in that connection, expressed support for the resource mobilization strategy set out in annex I to the report.

11. The Committee requested that an independent evaluation covering the five-year duration of the Special Initiative be carried out and submitted to the Committee for consideration at its forty-first session, in 2001.

12. The Committee reiterated the importance it attached to its previous recommendation, agreed upon during its thirty-eighth session, that the different lead agencies should be called upon, under the coordination of the ACC Steering Committee, to develop, in their respective areas, a common strategic framework for action that would analyse and highlight problems, set goals, determine the respective contributions of organizations, indicate necessary resources and set reference points, including performance indicators.